President.—Is it the step that is referred to there? What is the step that easily strikes you that the Government should take?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—I do not know. There are several steps. One is, by means of liberal payment to try to reserve fish manure or to impose an export duty so that the vast export that is conducted now may be discouraged.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—And if there are no local merchants to purchase them?

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—There is a great export of fish manure, and so to put a stop to that some steps should be taken. I ask whether the Government cannot impose an export duty on them.

President.—The question of levying an export duty has not been considered. I do not know whether the Government have any such power to impose export duty. I must ask my Government Advocate.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—My question is, is there any step taken by Government to check the export, because by exporting it local men are unable to purchase it at a moderate price.

President.—It is a commercial problem.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It is very difficult to answer now. We can consider it later on.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—It is stated that the remedy is with the agriculturists themselves. That is they can purchase it for their own money.

Will the Government be pleased to direct the Agricultural Department to invest an amount of money to deal with the business of purchasing the manure and distributing them to the agriculturists?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is impossible.

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Statistics regarding the export of fish manure.

457. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any statistics to show how much fish guano and other fish manure which have gone out of the State in the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The answer is in the negative.

The opening of manure depots.

458. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will be pleased to direct the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats to open manure depots in all villages where there are Panchayats throughout the State?

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